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COORDINATED WITH State

TO: Secretary of State
Attention: Mr. Dennis Flinn
Director, Office of Security

FROM: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: CUKURS, Herberts
aka ZUKURS, Herberts
TSUKURS, Herberts

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2008

1. Reference is made to your SY memorandum VO/21 dated 9 February 1955, subject as above, whose name you desired checked against the files of this office.

2. The files of this office reflect the following information concerning Herberts CUKURS, believed to be identical with the subject of your request.

3. In March 1945 one Captain CUKURS of the Latvian Army was reported to have been a member of the Latvian Nazi organization Perkonkrusts. CUKURS was said to have belonged to a notorious execution command and to have been very active in killing Jews.

4. Imprensa Popular, a Communist daily newspaper in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 19 July 1950 published an article stating that Herbert CUKURS was supposedly number 17 on the Nuremberg list of war criminals and was living in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at Avenida Epitacio Pessoa No. 574.

5. According to information from a usually reliable source received in a report dated 5 October 1950, Herbert CUKURS was accused by various Jewish groups in Rio de Janeiro of having been responsible for the liquidation of 30,000 Jews in Nazi-dominated Europe during World War II. Source stated that several of these Jewish organizations have been involved in pro-Communist activities and that many of the individuals connected with the CUKURS affair were known Communists.

6. A usually reliable source reported that during the German occupation of Latvia, Herberts CUKURS allegedly belonged to the ill-famed Arajs group who were said to have participated in the persecution of Jews. After the war he fled to Sweden and eventually settled in Brazil where he operated a boats-for-rent station. The Jewish population allegedly tried to have him expelled from Brazil and even destroyed his business. According to a recent article in a Latvian newspaper CUKURS had apparently been able to overcome the opposition that prevailed against him in Brazil and was

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again operating his boat business. CUKURS was further described by Source as a very venturesome person and a good businessman with few scruples.

7. For additional information concerning Herbert CUKURS reference is made to the following reports:

a. SO-54077, dated 5 January 1951, subject: Communist Activities in Seo Paolo.

b. State cable NR: A-1084, CONTROL: 304, from Department of State, to Frankfort, dated 3 October 1951.

CS DB-32869

Encl. 1 name check

RI/CE: AMJ/RGM/arh

Based on:

TBR-2350

TBR-2495

SR/2/Latvia

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